Tech Wins 27th Straight

By Edmund Greene

Sunday afternoon Tech added two more games to its record setting 27-game winning streak by sweeping a doubleheader from Morris Harvey.

A four run rally in the third inning proved to be the deciding factor as the Hokies took the opener 7-5. Tech jumped on Morris Harvey for seven runs in the first inning of the nightcap and rode the six hit pitching of junior righthander Bob Fisher as the Hokies and Fisher shutout Morris Harvey 9-0.

Tech jumped on top in the first inning of the opener as Rick Wade doubled and scored ahead of Sandy Hill as the senior centerfielder knocked his third home run of the year to put Tech ahead 2-0.

Morris Harvey battled back and scored four unearned runs off of lefthander Mike Rhodes, including a three-run homer by shortstop Carl Mertz. The Hokies came back, however, in the bottom of the inning to go ahead for good. Hill started the rally with a single followed by consecutive doubles from catcher Wayne Shelton and first baseman Dennis Duff. Steve Dodd singled to score Duff, and advanced to second on an infield out by Larry Smoot. Dodd advanced to third on a wild pitch and scored when Skip Dofflemyer reached base on an error.

Tech added another run in the sixth as Smoot singled and stole second. Dofflemyer sacrificed him to third base, and Smoot scored on Danny Griel's infield out.

Morris Harvey threatened again in the seventh, but John Power came in and struck out the only man he faced to save the game for Rhodes and Tech. It was the big freshman's third save of the year, while Rhodes increased his record to 5-1.

Tech was never threatened in the second game as they broke on top for seven runs in the first inning. Griel started it off by reaching base on an error and stealing second.

Rick Wade walked and Griel scored as Sandy Hill singled. Wayne Shelton scored Wade with a single and Dennis Duff reached third base on an error and a combination of throws that resulted in runs scored by Hill and Shelton.

Steve Dodd doubled to score Duff and advanced to third on an infield out, but was thrown out at the plate on Larry Smoot's infield grounder to short. Skip Dofflemyer walked and Griel loaded the bases with a single. Wade then knocked home Smoot and Dofflemyer with a single before Hill finally ended the outburst by grounding out.

Fisher was in complete control of Morris Harvey as only one runner reached third base and that was in the final inning. But a game ending double play by the Hokie defense saved the shutout for Fisher. With Tech's fifth shutout of the year, Fisher raised his record to 3-1.

Sophomore Duke Dickerson recorded one of those shutouts Saturday night as he shutout Milligan 5-0.

Tech gave Dickerson all the runs he needed by scoring twice in the third inning. Skip Dofflemyer reached on an error, while Danny Griel and Rick Wade each singled to load the bases. Dofflemyer scored as Sandy Hill reached base on a fielder's choice and Griel scored as Wayne Shelton walked with the bases loaded.

The Hokies broke loose for three more runs in the ninth as Dennis Duff walked and advanced to second on Steve Dodd's infield hit. Both runners then scored on leftfielder Mike Preisser's single. Preisser went to second as the lefthander mishandled the ball and scored on Dofflemyer's single.

Thursday afternoon Tech lived up to its nickname—"the Fighting Gobblers"—by sweeping a doubleheader from West Virginia. Tech won the opener 3-1 behind the fourth hit pitching of Jim Publis. The Hokies took the nightcap also when a bench-clearing brawl resulted in a forfeit by the Mountaineers.

In the first game, West Virginia broke on top by scoring a run in the first inning—the first run off of Publis in 22 innings.

Tech came back in the third inning as Dennis Duff sliced a home run just inside the foul pole in rightfield, his eighth of the year.

Tech scored twice more in the sixth to win the game as Duff, Tony Metts, and Steve Dodd each singled, as Dodd's single scored Duff. Metts scored two outs later as Danny Griel doubled over the fence in rightcenter.

Publis struck out seven as he ran his record to 6-2 in shutting out the Mountaineers after the first inning.

The second game ended with only one but in the bottom of the first inning after the Hokies had scored five runs. Dan Griel singled, followed by Rick Wade and Sandy Hill each drawing a walk. Wayne Shelton singled to drive in two runs. After Dennis Duff singled to score Hill, Tony Metts singled to score Shelton and Duff. Metts was thrown out at second attempting to stretch the hit into a double.

Metts argued with the umpire that he was safe as West Virginia shortstop Jerry Mahoney complained, "Well, don't cry about it.

Words had been exchanged between the two players as Metts slid hard into second base in the first game breaking up a double play after which Mahoney told Metts "you better not come into second like that again.

Metts then shoved Mahoney, starting the brawl that emptied both benches. Mahoney received a broken jaw and West Virginia coach Dale Ramsburg refused to put his team on the field after the fight, because he said he didn't have a replacement for Mahoney.

As a result of the fight (before the forfeit) Metts and first baseman Harold Williams were ejected from the game—Metts for starting the fight and Williams for breaking Mahoney's jaw.

Friday disciplinary action was taken by Tech coach Bob Humphreys in the form of suspending Metts for the remainder of the season.

Tech next attempts to extend its winning streak on Tuesday at Marshall and Wednesday night against Tennessee at Kingsport before returning home next Monday for a game with Tennessee Temple.